

Appl. No. : 10/665,174
Filed : September 17, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-38. (Canceled)

39. (Previously Presented) A constriction sleeve for constricting body tissue when applied thereto, the sleeve comprising a generally cylindrical portion and an opening at one end for application to the body tissue, said sleeve further comprising resilient expandable biocompatible material suitable for extended use within a patient, said sleeve further comprising at least one suture aperture extending through the sleeve for affixing said sleeve to the body tissue when in its desired position, and said sleeve further comprising a reinforcement structure, whereby the sleeve may be resiliently expanded to an expanded configuration for application to the body tissue and released to a constricted configuration to constrict the body tissue therein.

40. (Previously Presented) The constriction sleeve of Claim 39, wherein the reinforcement structure is positioned proximate the suture aperture.

41. (Previously Presented) The constriction sleeve of Claim 39, wherein the reinforcement structure comprises a band of material extending at least partially radially about the sleeve and added to the sleeve in such a manner as to structurally reinforce the sleeve for purposes of enhancing its application to the tissue.

42. (Previously Presented) The constriction sleeve of Claim 41, wherein the band comprises a layer of resilient material having a higher tear strength than the resilient material of the sleeve.

43. (Previously Presented) The constriction sleeve of Claims 41, wherein the band is made integrally with the sleeve wall.

44. (Previously Presented) The constriction sleeve of Claims 41, wherein the band comprises a discrete component.

45. (Previously Presented) The constriction sleeve of Claims 41, wherein the band extends radially outwardly from a wall of the sleeve.

46. (Previously Presented) The constriction sleeve of Claims 39, wherein the sleeve comprises a plurality of suture apertures spaced radially about the sleeve.

47. (Previously Presented) The constriction sleeve of Claims 39, wherein one or more of the apertures has a tapered entry configured to guide a suture needle into the aperture.

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48. (Previously Presented) The constriction sleeve of Claim 39 further comprising a second opening.

49. (Previously Presented) A constriction device comprising a tubular portion and an opening at one end for application to lung tissue, said device comprising at least one suture aperture extending through the device and a reinforcement structure, said device further comprising resilient expandable material whereby the device may be resiliently expanded to an expanded configuration for application to the body tissue and released to a constricted configuration to constrict the body tissue therein.

50. (Previously Presented) The constriction device of Claim 49, wherein the reinforcement structure comprises a band of material extending at least partially radially about the device and added to the device in such a manner as to structurally reinforce the device for purposes of enhancing its application to the tissue.

51. (Previously Presented) The constriction device of Claim 50, wherein the band comprises a layer of resilient material having a higher tear strength than the resilient material of the device.

52. (Previously Presented) The constriction device of Claims 50, wherein the band is made integrally with the device wall.

53. (Previously Presented) The constriction device of Claims 50, wherein the band comprises a discrete component.

54. (Previously Presented) The constriction device of Claims 50, wherein the band extends radially outwardly from a wall of the device.

55. (Previously Presented) The constriction device of Claims 49, wherein the device comprises a plurality of suture apertures spaced radially about the device.

56. (Previously Presented) The constriction device of Claim 49, further comprising a second opening.

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57. (New) A constriction sleeve for constricting body tissue when applied thereto, the sleeve comprising a generally cylindrical portion and an opening at one end for application to the body tissue, said sleeve further comprising resilient expandable biocompatible material suitable for extended use within a patient, said sleeve further comprising a reinforcement structure and a suture aperture extending through the sleeve and at least a portion of the reinforcement structure for affixing said sleeve to the body tissue when said sleeve is in its desired position, whereby the sleeve may be resiliently expanded to an expanded configuration for application to the body tissue and released to a constricted configuration to constrict the body tissue therein.

58. (New) The constriction sleeve of Claim 57, wherein the reinforcement structure comprises a band of material extending at least partially radially about the sleeve and added to the sleeve in such a manner as to structurally reinforce the sleeve for purposes of enhancing its application to the tissue.

59. (New) The constriction sleeve of Claim 58, wherein the band comprises a layer of resilient material having a higher tear strength than the resilient material of the sleeve.

60. (New) The constriction sleeve of Claims 58, wherein the band is made integrally with the sleeve wall.

61. (New) The constriction sleeve of Claims 57, wherein one or more of the apertures has a tapered entry configured to guide a suture needle into the aperture.

62. (New) A constriction device comprising a tubular portion and an opening at one end for application to lung tissue, said device comprising at least one suture aperture extending through the tubular portion and a reinforcement structure, said device further comprising resilient expandable material whereby the device may be resiliently expanded to an expanded configuration for application to the body tissue and released to a constricted configuration to constrict the body tissue therein.

63. (New) The constriction device of Claim 62, wherein the reinforcement structure comprises a band of material extending at least partially radially about the device and added to the device in such a manner as to structurally reinforce the device for purposes of enhancing its application to the tissue.

64. (New) The constriction device of Claim 63, wherein the band comprises a layer of resilient material having a higher tear strength than the resilient material of the device.

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65. (New) The constriction device of Claims 63, wherein the band is made integrally with the device wall.